

headed by the Marquis of Halifax, to whom Macaulay does less than justice. In October 1685 Halifax was dismissed from the position he held as Lord President of the Council for refusing to countenance the employment of Catholic officers in the army and for opposing the of the Test Act. New evidence proves that Halifax offered a more determined resistance to James's measures than Macaulay suggests. Halifax wrote to Compton, Bishop of London, advising him to stand firm against the sentence of the High Commission Court and not to submit or petition for restoration to his ecclesiastical functions.¹ He also drew up a petition and offered it to the seven bishops when they were in the Tower. They were to sign it and present it to the King and Halifax probably intended to get it printed as an appeal to the people.²

Further, after the landing of William of Orange, a certain number of peers endeavoured to promote an accommodation between William and James on the basis of calling a free Parliament, and at a meeting they drew up a petition for the purpose. Halifax and some others refused to sign, and stood aloof from any association with the court. The reasons for this opposition are more explicitly explained in a letter³ from Lord Nottingham which was unknown to Macaulay. There is another still more important document, After James and his army retired from Salisbury the King

returned to London and held a meeting of the
peers there on
November 27. At their instigation he now
opened negotiations with William, appointing Halifax,
Nottingham, and
Godolphin to treat. The official report of their
mission,
made by these negotiators to the Secretary
of State, is

ⁱ Foxcroft, Halifax, L 448-53.

^z Ibid. pp. 472,

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^s Ibid. ii. 12 ; cf. Hatton Correspondence, ed. E. M.
Thompson (1878), ii.
103.